



JUNE 19-JULY 12
PLEASANTON 26

2026 ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR HOMEBREW COMPETITION (BABO) ENTRY GUIDE

Presented by:



Entry Fee:
\$10.00 per entry

Click [HERE](#) to enter!

Entry Deadline: Friday, May 15th @ 4:00 p.m.

Each exhibitor who submits an entry for judging will receive an e-ticket (one Per Exhibitor regardless of the number of entries) good for one admission to the 2026 Alameda County Fair.

Tickets will be sent to the e-mail on file prior to the opening date of the fair.
Tickets are good for any day the Fair is open.



Alameda County Fair Homebrew Competition a.k.a., the Bay Area Brew Off (BABO)

Presented by



For Questions, please contact:
MZACFHomebrewComp@gmail.com
or call 925-426-7611 to leave a message

ALL STATE and LOCAL RULES APPLY
BJCP Sanctioned Competition
SEE CONTENTS FOR JUDGING STANDARDS

Delivery Information

Alameda County Fairgrounds
Saturday, May 16th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
OR

See next page for Drop-Off Locations accepting entries
Friday, May 1st thru Friday, May 15th by 4 p.m.

Thank you to our Homebrew Competition Drop-Off Locations!

Altamont Beer Works-Livermore
More Beer!- Concord
Oak Barrel Winecraft- Berkeley
Morgan Territory Brewing- Tracy
Clandestine Brewing- San Jose



Drop Off Locations *

Oak Barrel Winecraft

1443 San Pablo Ave
Berkeley, CA 94702

Hours: Monday 10a-6p, Tuesday Closed, Wednesday 10a-6p, Thursday 10a-5p, Friday 10a-6p, Saturday 10a-5p, Sun 11a-2p

MoreBeer, Concord

(THIS LOCATION ONLY - Drop Off and/or Ship-To)

995 Detroit Avenue, Unit G
Concord, CA 94518

Hours: Monday to Friday: 10a-6p, Saturday & Sunday: 10a-5p

Morgan Territory Brewing

1885 N MacArthur Drive
Tracy, CA 95376

Hours: Monday to Thursday: 2p-9p, Friday to Sunday: 12p-9p

Altamont Beer Works

2402 Research Dr.
Livermore, CA 94550

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 12p- 8p, Sun 12p- 6p.

Clandestine Brewing

980 S 1st St, Suite B
San Jose, CA 95110

Hours: Monday 4p-9p, Closed Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 4p-9p, Friday 4p-11p, Saturday 12p-10p, Sunday 12p-8p

*NOTE: MOREBEER, CONCORD IS A DROP-OFF AND SHIP-TO LOCATION. ALL OTHERS ARE DROP-OFF ONLY.



Homebrew Department Rules

Submission of entry constitutes agreement to these rules.

1. ENTRY REGISTRATION:

- a. All homebrew entries must be pre-registered, with entry fees paid by 4:00pm on Friday, May 15th at <https://beerawardsplatform.com/babo2026> (case sensitive).
- b. With submission of entry registration, the exhibitor confirms their ability to deliver entry to the fair or drop off locations on the posted delivery date(s) and time(s). Entry fees will not be refunded.

2. DELIVERY:

- a. Bottles and/or Cans must be dropped off (or delivered) to an entry location on page 3, between May 1 - May 15 within their listed business hours -- see page 3 for specific location hours. If your entry is dropped off (or set to arrive) on May 15th, it must arrive by 4:00pm. Do not ship entries via U.S. Mail.
- b. Entries may be dropped off to the Alameda County Fairgrounds only on Saturday, May 16th from 10 a.m. to Noon. **LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

3. LIMITATIONS:

- a. Competition is open to all homebrewers over 21 years of age on May 15th, 2026.
- b. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per BJCP Subcategory.
- c. Fair Management and/or competition organizer may consolidate classes into suitable flights, if warranted, due to low number of entries in a class (i.e. BJCP category).
- d. Greatest care will be exercised in handling entries, but the Fair Management, Alameda County Fair Association, and the County of Alameda will not be held liable for loss, theft, or damage of any kind from any cause.

4. PREPARING YOUR BEER, MEAD, OR CIDER HOMEBREW ENTRIES:

- a. Each exhibitor must submit **THREE (3) clean, otherwise unmarked 12 oz bottles or 12 - 16 oz cans**. Containers should be free of any identifying markings such as raised brand lettering on the neck. "Nip" **6 oz - 8 oz** bottles are discouraged, but may be submitted for strong (>9% ABV) Beers, Meads, or Ciders. Due to the inconvenience of handling, no other size bottles or cans will be accepted.
- b. Any color or brand of caps is acceptable, including those denoting "Oxycap" or similar plain lettering. However if the caps have any logo or design please black them out with permanent black marker.
- c. Use the label generated during the entry process at: <https://beerawardsplatform.com/babo2026>. Neatly attach label directly to each bottle or can using clear packaging tape, covering it in its entirety. Alternately, use rubber bands to firmly affix it to the bottle. Please ensure that the barcode, entry number, category, and style information are clearly visible.
- d. Please review the 2021 BJCP style guidelines at www.BJCP.org to determine best placement of entry.



- i. Pay special attention to the Entry Instructions in the category and subcategory, to ensure any required or optional items, special ingredients, etc. are declared as needed for your entry. For meads and ciders this may include strength, sweetness, carbonation level, or varietal(s).
- e. Each homebrew entry qualifies the brewer for 1 entry in the homebrew label design competition.
- f. The competition organizer reserves the right to disqualify entries not meeting the documented rules.
- g. Entries become the property of the Alameda County Fair and will not be returned.

5. JUDGING:

- a. This homebrew competition is judged based on the current BJCP Judge Procedures Manual and in compliance with the current BJCP Competition Handbook (both found at BJCP.org).
- b. Beers will be ranked against one another to identify one 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entry in each flight.
- c. Judges will evaluate entries against the current Beer, Mead, and Cider Guidelines at www.BJCP.org.
- d. Judging will be done digitally, by experienced and BJCP ranked judges. Judges' decisions are final.
- e. Judging is closed to entrants. Results will be shared digitally at the discretion of the coordinator.

6. DISPLAY:

- a. Homebrew will be displayed in Building Q for the duration of the Alameda County Fair.

7. AWARDS:

- a. Special Rosettes awarded for Best of Show and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each class. Honorable Mention Rosette may be awarded.
- b. Cash Awards: 1st Place: \$8.00, 2nd Place: \$6.00, 3rd Place: \$4.00
- c. Grand Prize: Best of Show beer will be brewed at **Del Cielo Brewing Co.** in Livermore*, and the BoS winning entrant will also receive a \$100 cash prize (prize sponsor: Susie Calhoun).
- d. Gift Certificates and/or prizes will be awarded to winning entries from our sponsors:
 - **5 Star Chemicals**
 - **BSG**
 - **Del Cielo Brewing Co.**

*Standard Ale, Lager, or Kettle Sour entries only. Brewer reserves the right to brew an alternate beer with the winner at their discretion, after reviewing the Best of Show style recipe (e.g. barrel aged, sour, special ingredients).



Thank you to our Prize Sponsors!

Susie Calhoun and the following companies:





Homebrew- Division 405

2021 BJCP Beer Styles Categories correspond to Fair Class Number

For detailed beer descriptions, see the 2021 Style Guidelines at <http://www.bjcp.org>

Class 1. STANDARD AMERICAN BEER

- 1A. American Light Lager
- 1B. American Lager
- 1C. Cream Ale
- 1D. American Wheat Beer

Class 2. INTERNATIONAL LAGER

- 2A. International Pale Lager
- 2B. International Amber Lager
- 2C. International Dark Lager

Class 3. CZECH LAGER

- 3A. Czech Pale Lager
- 3B. Czech Premium Pale Lager
- 3C. Czech Amber Lager
- 3D. Czech Dark Lager

Class 4. PALE MALTY EUROPEAN LAGER

- 4A. Munich Helles
- 4B. Festbier
- 4C. Helles Bock

Class 5. PALE BITTER EUROPEAN LAGER

- 5A. German Leichtbier
- 5B. Kölsch
- 5C. German Helles Exportbier
- 5D. German Pils

Class 6. AMBER MALTY EUROPEAN LAGER

- 6A. Märzen
- 6B. Rauchbier

Class 7. AMBER BITTER EUROPEAN BEER

- 7A. Vienna Lager
- 7B. Altbier

Class 8. DARK EUROPEAN LAGER

- 8A. Munich Dunkel
- 8B. Schwarzbier

Class 9. STRONG EUROPEAN BEER

- 9A. Doppelbock
- 9B. Eisbock
- 9C. Baltic Porter

Class 10. GERMAN WHEAT BEER

- 10A. Weissbier
- 10B. Dunkles Weissbier
- 10C. Weizenbock

Class 11. BRITISH BITTER

- 11A. Ordinary Bitter
- 11B. Best Bitter
- 11C. Strong Bitter

Class 12. PALE COMMONWEALTH BEER

- 12A. British Golden Ale
- 12B. Australian Sparkling Ale
- 12C. English IPA

Class 13. BROWN BRITISH BEER

- 13A. Dark Mild
- 13B. British Brown Ale



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6C. Dunkles Bock

13C. English Porter

Homebrew- Division 405, cont'd

2021 BJCP Beer Styles Categories correspond to Fair Class Number

For detailed beer descriptions, see the 2021 Style Guidelines at <http://www.bjcp.org>

Class 14. SCOTTISH ALE

- 14A. Scottish Light
- 14B. Scottish Heavy
- 14C. Scottish Export

Class 15. IRISH BEER

- 15A. Irish Red Ale
- 15B. Irish Stout
- 15C. Irish Extra Stout

Class 16. DARK BRITISH BEER

- 16A. Sweet Stout
- 16B. Oatmeal Stout
- 16C. Tropical Stout
- 16D. Foreign Extra Stout

Class 17. STRONG BRITISH ALE

- 17A. British Strong Ale
- 17B. Old Ale
- 17C. Wee Heavy
- 17D. English Barley Wine

Class 18. PALE AMERICAN ALE

- 18A. Blonde Ale
- 18B. American Pie Ale

Class 19. AMBER & BROWN AMERICAN

- 19A. American Amber Ale
- 19B. California Common
- 19C. American Brown Ale

Class 20. AMERICAN PORTER & STOUT

- 20A. American Porter
- 20B. American Stout
- 20C. Imperial Stout

Class 21. IPA

- 21A. American IPA
- 21B. Specialty IPA
 - Specialty IPA: Belgian IPA
 - Specialty IPA: Black IPA
 - Specialty IPA: Brown IPA
 - Specialty IPA: Red IPA
 - Specialty IPA: Rye IPA
 - Specialty IPA: White IPA
 - Specialty IPA: Brut IPA
- 21C. Hazy IPA

Class 22. STRONG AMERICAN ALE

- 22A. Double IPA
- 22B. American Strong Ale
- 22C. American Barleywine
- 22D. Wheatwine

Class 23. EUROPEAN SOUR ALE

- 23A. Berliner Weisse
- 23B. Flanders Red Ale
- 23C. Oud Bruin
- 23D. Lambic
- 23E. Gueuze
- 23F. Fruit Lambic



23G. Gose

Homebrew- Division 405, cont'd

2021 BJCP Beer Styles Categories correspond to Fair Class Number

For detailed beer descriptions, see the 2021 Style Guidelines at <http://www.bjcp.org>

Class 24. BELGIAN ALE

- 24A. Witbier
- 24B. Belgian Pale Ale
- 24C. Bière de Garde

Class 25. STRONG BELGIAN ALE

- 25A. Belgian Blond Ale
- 25B. Saison
- 25C. Belgian Golden Strong Ale

Class 26. MONASTIC ALE

- 26A. Belgian Single
- 26B. Belgian Dubbel
- 26C. Belgian Tripel
- 26D. Belgian Dark Strong Ale

Class 27. HISTORIC BEER

- Historical Beer: Kellerbier
- Historical Beer: Kentucky Common
- Historical Beer: Lichtenhainer
- Historical Beer: London Brown Ale
- Historical Beer: Piwo Grodziskie
- Historical Beer: Pre-Prohibition Lager
- Historical Beer: Pre-Prohibition Porter
- Historical Beer: Roggenbier
- Historical Beer: Sahti

Class 28. AMERICAN WILD ALE

- 28A. Brett Beer
- 28B. Mixed-Fermentation Sour Beer
- 28C. Wild Specialty Beer

Class 29. FRUIT BEER

- 29A. Fruit Beer
- 29B. Fruit & Spice Beer
- 29C. Specialty Fruit Beer
- 29D. Grape Ale

Class 30. SPICED BEER

- 30A. Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer
- 30B. Autumn Seasonal Beer
- 30C. Winter Seasonal Beer
- 30D. Specialty Spice Beer

Class 31. ALTERNATIVE FERMENTABLES

- 31A. Alternative Grain Beer
- 31B. Alternative Sugar Beer

Class 32. SMOKED BEER

- 32A. Classic Style Smoked Beer
- 32B. Specialty Smoked Beer

Class 33. WOOD BEER

- 33A. Wood-Aged Beer
- 33B. Specialty Wood-Aged Beer

Class 34. SPECIALTY BEER

- 34A. Clone Beer
- 34B. Mixed-Style Beer
- 34C. Experimental Beer



28D. Straight Sour

Homebrew- Division 405, cont'd

2021 BJCP Beer Styles Categories correspond to Fair Class Number

For detailed beer descriptions, see the 2021 Style Guidelines at <http://www.bjcp.org>

Class X. LOCAL STYLES

- X1.** Pampas Golden Ale
- X2.** Argentine IPA
- X3.** Italian Grape Ale
- X4.** Catharina Sour
- X5.** New Zealand Pilsner

Class M1. TRADITIONAL MEAD 2015

- M1A.** Dry Mead
- M1B.** Semi-Sweet Mead
- M1C.** Sweet Mead

Class M2. Fruit Mead 2015

- M2A.** Cyser
- M2B.** Pyment
- M2C.** Berry Mead
- M2D.** Stone Fruit Mead
- M2E.** Melomel

Class M3. SPICED MEAD 2015

- M3A.** Fruit & Spice Mead
- M3B.** Spice, Herb or Vegetable Mead

Class M4. SPECIALTY MEAD 2015

- M4A.** Braggot
- M4B.** Historical Mead
- M4C.** Experimental Mead

Class C1. TRADITIONAL CIDER 2025

- C1A.** Common Cider
- C1B.** Heirloom Cider
- C1C.** English Cider
- C1D.** French Cider
- C1E.** Spanish Cider

Class C2. STRONG CIDER 2025

- C2A.** New England Cider
- C2B.** Applewine
- C2C.** Ice Cider
- C2D.** Fire Cider

Class C3. SPECIALTY CIDER 2025

- C3A.** Fruit Cider
- C3B.** Spiced Cider
- C3C.** Experimental Cider

Class C4. PERRY 2025

- C4A.** Common Perry
- C4B.** Heirloom Perry
- C4C.** Ice Perry
- C4D.** Experimental Perry

For Questions regarding classes, please contact:

MZACFHomebrewComp@gmail.com



or call 925-426-7611 to leave a message

Homebrew Label Design- Division 415

Exhibitors entering Homebrew Division 405 (see pages 7-10), may enter the Homebrew Label Design Division 415. One label allowed per paid homebrewed beer mead, or cider entry (max: 1 label per class). Label entry is optional.

1. ENTRY REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION:

- a. If submitting a homebrew label, note these entries are also due by 4:00 PM on Friday, May 15th
- b. To enter a Label: There is no separate registration. Simply register your homebrew entry at <https://beerawardsplatform.com/babo2026> (case sensitive), as normal.
- c. **Important:** Print 1 extra copy of your homebrew entry label (we need this to know whose it is).
- d. On the homebrew entry label, clearly write “LABEL ENTRY,” and either “CLASS 1” (Celebrate Summer), “CLASS 2” (Celebrating 250 years of America) or “CLASS 3” (Best Homebrew label) next to that. *See further details in section 3a below.*
- e. Prepare one EMPTY bottle or can with the label artwork entry firmly affixed to the container.
- f. Rubber band the extra homebrew entry label onto your Label design entry, and submit it along with your Homebrew entries.

2. DELIVERY:

- a. Please refer to pages 2 and 3 for delivery dates and drop off / ship-to locations (same as for beers).
- b. Homebrew label entries may be delivered to any entry location by May 15th at 4:00 PM, or dropped off to the Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. until Noon on May 16th. **LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

3. LIMITATIONS:

- a. Only 1 Homebrew Label Design per class will be accepted (if multiples of either Class are submitted, staff reserves the right to omit the extras).
 - o **Class 1. Celebrate Summer**
 - o **Class 2. Celebrating 250 Years of America**
 - o **Class 3. Best Homebrew Label**

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR “HOMEBREW LABEL” BOTTLE/CAN ENTRIES:

- a. Please note: your label entry must be on a separate bottle or can from your homebrew entry. Do not put artwork labels on your homebrew entries. Take one empty, clean 12 to 22 oz bottle or 12 to 20 oz can, and add your homebrew label / artwork to it. Water-resistant ink is recommended, since entries may be refrigerated (optional: protect the entry from damage by enclosing it in a clear plastic storage bag). Remember to attach an extra copy of your homebrew entry label to this container.



- b. Ensure the entry label is firmly attached with rubber bands (not tape) to the bottle; this is our only method of tracking entries. Again, clearly indicate the class # / class name (see 1d / 3a above).
- c. Entries become the property of the Alameda County Fair and will not be returned.

Homebrew Label Design- Division 415, cont'd

5. JUDGING:

- a. Homebrew label designs must reflect good taste.
- b. Judging criteria will be based on an exhibitor's creativity, originality, and artistic / graphics skill.
- c. Judges will be looking for an "*attention grabber*" that attracts closer attention and observation, based on use of color, design and composition.
- d. Judging will be closed to exhibitors. Judges' decisions are final.
- e. Results will be shared at the discretion of the organizer.

6. DISPLAY:

- a. Homebrew Labels will be displayed in Building Q for the duration of the Alameda County Fair.

7. AWARDS:

- a. Special Rosettes awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each class.
 - **Class 1. Celebrate Summer**
 - **Class 2. Celebrating 250 Years of America**
 - **Class 3. Best Homebrew Label**